

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-32, 37, 38, and 40 drawn to products; and

Group II, claims 33-36 and 39, drawn to methods.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, claims 1-32, 37, 38, and 40.

Applicants traverse the requirement for restriction on the grounds that the two inventions involved are very closely related, such that they could be examined together in the present application without undue burden on the USPTO. More specifically, it is believed that the search and examination considerations for the methods of Group II would overlap considerably with the search and examination considerations of Group I, which includes products made by the Group II methods. Should the products of Group I be found to be allowable, Applicants should not be required to file a separate application for the presently claimed methods of making those novel and unobvious compositions. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of the invention of Group II with the elected invention Group I.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


Andrew D. Meikle, #32,868


ADM/RG/bsh

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000